

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider amendment to claims 6, 11, and 16 as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for entering a service request as an XML message for processing in a legacy format not compatible with said XML message comprising:
- a. A user terminal which generates a said service request containing a plurality of request parameters as an XML message using one of a plurality of formats;
 - b. an intermediate server having an adapter which converts said service request to an intermediate format responsively coupled via a publicly accessible digital data communication network responsively coupled to said user terminal;
 - c. A middleware generic gateway within a generic server responsively coupled to said ~~publicly available digital data communication network~~ intermediate server which converts said service request from said intermediate format to said legacy format not compatible with said XML message;
 - d. a request buffer created by said middleware generic gateway from said plurality of request parameters; and
 - e. A legacy enterprise server responsively coupled to said generic server which receives said service request in said legacy format.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a transaction comprising:

- a. Composing a service request within a user terminal as an XML message using one of a plurality of formats;
- b. Transferring said XML message from said user terminal via a publicly accessible digital data communication network to one of a plurality of adapters corresponding to said one of said plurality of formats within a server;
- c. Converting said XML message into a standardized format for processing within a generic gateway within said server; and
- d. transferring said XML message converted into said standard format to said generic gateway which converts said service request from said standardized format into a legacy format not compatible with said XML message;
- e. packing said converted service request converted into said legacy format into a request buffer compatible with a legacy data base management system by said generic gateway; and
- f. transferring said request buffer from said generic gateway to said legacy data base management system to be honored.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

- a. generating means for generating an XML message within a user terminal containing a service request and a plurality of request parameters using one of a plurality of message formats;
- b. transferring means responsively coupled to said generating means for transferring said XML message via a publicly accessible digital data network;
- c. adapting means responsively coupled to said publicly accessible digital data network for adapting said XML message to a standardized intermediate format using one of a plurality of adapters including creating a request parameter buffer and an input buffer from said plurality of request parameters; [[and]]
- d. converting means responsively coupled to said adapting means which utilizes a gateway to convert said service request from said intermediate format into a legacy format which is not compatible with said XML message; and
- e. processing means responsively coupled to said adapting converting means for processing said service request in said legacy format received from said [[via a]] generic gateway including said request buffer containing said plurality of request parameters.